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JORDAN TIMES

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »

De Guringaud ends Israel visit

TEL AVIV, April 1 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guringaud, who left for Paris today, ended his visit to Israel by paying a "courtesy" call on former Prime Minister Golda Meir. Mrs. Meir, 79, remains a powerful figure in the wings of the Israeli political scene although she has withdrawn from active politics. Members of M. de Guringaud's entourage said he was satisfied with the conversations he has had here with Israeli leaders and with the reception given to him during his two-day visit. He and Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told a joint press conference last night that Franco-Israeli relations now were normal. But they made it clear they still disagreed on several key issues concerning the Middle East.

Scandinavians devalue currency

BRUSSELS, April 1 (R). — Sweden, Norway and Denmark, in a surprise move, tonight devalued their currencies against the other members of the European Joint Float of Snake, an announcement said. Belgian Finance Minister Willy de Clerq told a press conference that a meeting of Snake ministers here had agreed to a 6 per cent devaluation of the Swedish crown and 3 per cent devaluations of the Norwegian and Danish crowns, effective next Monday. The exchange rates of the other Snake currencies — the German mark, Dutch guilder and Belgian and Luxembourg francs — remain unchanged, Mr. de Clerq said. The Joint Float — under which members have fixed exchange rates against each other and float as a group against outside currencies — is a Common Market mechanism.

Volume 2, Number 425

AMMAN, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1977 — RABIE AL THANI 13, 1397

Price: 50 fils

Austria to give aid to Jordanian agriculture, Prince Hassan says in Vienna

VIENNA, April 1 (Agencies). — Austria today promised Jordanian aid in training farmers and raising crops and cattle-breeding in the Jordan River Valley. His Highness Crown Prince Hassan told a press conference after talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky that Austria would contribute to an international effort to build up agricultural production in the Jordanian and other Arab states, the agency said. In a speech, at a dinner banquet held in the Austrian capital yesterday evening in honor of Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Chancellor Kreisky lauded the strong Jordanian-Austrian relations which had been further reinforced, he said, by the visit to Austria last year of His Majesty King Hussein. Addressing the Crown Prince, Chancellor Kreisky said: "Your Highness' visit has been an opportunity to discuss aspects of cooperation between our countries on solid bases and for the benefit of our peoples." Prince Hassan agreed, in his reply, that there were numerous fields for cooperation between Austria and Jordan and concluded by thanking his Austrian hosts for the warm welcome accorded him and Princess Sarvath in Vienna. The crown prince, who arrived here yesterday on a three-day official visit, ended talks in Vienna with visits to the headquarters of the United Nations bodies for atomic energy and industrial development. He leaves for Amman on Monday after a private visit to Salzburg.



WELCOME -- West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, (right), welcomes Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to their talks in Bonn, Friday, at the start of the second day of President Sadat's visit to West Germany. (AP wirephoto).

Sadat promised West German aid Schmidt: Palestinians must join Geneva talks

BONN, April 1 (R). — West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt said today he believed that the Palestinians must take part in any reconvened Geneva talks on the Middle East. Diplomatic sources said West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who recently visited Israel, assured President Sadat at separate talks earlier today that the Israelis were just as interested in a Middle East solution as Arab states. Herr Genscher also stressed that a solution of the conflict depended on the Palestinians recognizing Israel's right to exist, the sources said. The Egyptian president, sitting beside Chancellor Schmidt, said they had discussed West German financial aid to Egypt this year. The Ministry of Economic Cooperation said later that 250 million marks (about \$80 million) in capital aid had been earmarked for Egypt this year, pending parliamentary approval. In addition Egypt would get 16 million marks (about \$4 million) in technical aid, the statement said. Questioned about the expansion of communism and Soviet influence in Africa, President Sadat expressed concern about recent events in Zaire and Ethiopia, both with wars on their soil. "Africa should be left in peace to develop its own way," he said. Mr. Sadat accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of making Soviet infiltration easier. He added that he wanted the Mediterranean to be "a sea of peace." He said that Syria, as well as Egypt, needed Western help in the way of remaining leftwing and Palestinian secondary positions scattered along the border.

Israel, Lebanese right capture new villages, reports rightwing radio station

BEIRUT, April 1 (Agencies). — Israeli-backed rightists were reported by a rightwing radio station to have captured four strategic southern Lebanese villages near the Israeli border today after fierce fighting with forces of Lebanon's leftist-Palestinian alliance. Rightwing militiamen appeared to be stepping up a protracted offensive aimed at taking control of the entire frontier region. The rightwing Phalangist radio reported that rightist fighters had taken the villages of Baida, Meiss Al Jabal, Markaba and Deir Al Sirian. But Palestinian sources denied the report and said it was based on rumours. The first three of the hamlets reported captured today are dotted along the north-south road running parallel to the barbed-wire fence which forms the Lebanese-Israeli border. Deir Al Sirian is a few kilometres from Beaufort, the ancient Crusader castle still held by leftists and Palestinians. The whole area is contained in a zone of about 10 kms. between the village of Houla and the town of Bint Jbeil, with most leftist and Palestinian men and equipment concentrated there. Observers said rightwing forces could now be expected to bottle up Houla and its neighbouring villages in order to besiege Bint Jbeil, the final big leftist stronghold, from all sides. Its fall would be decisive as nothing would then stand in the way of remaining leftwing and Palestinian secondary positions scattered along the border.

Vance in Paris

PARIS, April 1 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived here today by air from London for talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Mr. Vance will meet the French president tomorrow morning to brief him on his talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow earlier this week. Speaking to reporters on the plane which brought him here, Mr. Vance said that if the Soviet Union pursued the idea of eliminating "advanced" U.S. nuclear weapons bases in Europe it would alter the entire basis of Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) Talks. He confirmed that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko had raised the question of removing European-based U.S. nuclear weapons during their abortive negotiations in Moscow this week. "If they should pursue that idea then it would change the whole basis of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks," he said. Mr. Vance pledged America's "fullest support" for British efforts to find a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia, a Foreign Office spokesman said in London today. Mr. Vance gave the pledge at talks with British Foreign Secretary David Owen today before he left for Paris.

U.S. unperturbed by USSR's attack on arms proposals

WASHINGTON, April 1 (R). — The White House today responded calmly to Soviet attacks on President Carter's proposals for strategic arms curbs and said it believed further talks would bear fruit. A conciliatory mood was evident as Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, the president's National Security Adviser, joined the battle for world public opinion following the break-up of strategic arms talks in Moscow this week. Mr. Brzezinski, who confirmed Soviet reports of details in the American arms limitation package, refused to match what he called the acerbic language of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Mr. Brzezinski said he did not intend to engage in recriminations. Instead, he stressed the president's view that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance presented a fair and balanced package for limiting and eventually reducing strategic arms levels. He speculated the Soviet attitude could change after the president's proposals had been fully digested and noted that the Russians, after fierce resistance, agreed in 1972 to ban ballistic missile defence systems. The break-up of the Moscow talks was viewed by diplomatic experts as a hard blow for détente and a Soviet test of President Carter's will and his campaign against abuses of human rights.

SPANISH COURT DECLINES TO RULE ON STATUS OF COMMUNISTS

MADRID, April 1 (AFP). — The Spanish Supreme Court was expected to declare it is not competent to rule on whether the outlawed Communist Party should be granted legal status when its verdict is made public tomorrow. The court's Fourth Chamber will issue its verdict tomorrow morning, the chamber's secretary Ricardo Rodriguez said. He added that the delay was due to the fact that several of the judges wanted to make last-minute changes to the judgement, the Spanish Europa Press news agency reported today. A decision that the court was not competent to rule on the request will mean that the government will now have to make its own ruling. Although technically an illegal party, the Communists have been allowed to operate openly as a political group for many months.

Deadlock threatens talks on Cyprus

VIENNA, April 1 (R). — New tensions on Cyprus bogged down on their second day today as Greek and Turkish delegates talked widely apart proposals for a re-division of the island to end years of communal tension. The Greek-Cypriots rejected a Turkish plan tabled today for a federal union. The Turks rebuffed Greek proposals for two separate administrative regions as unfair. The delegates said they were ready to negotiate and Secretary General Kurt Waldheim called them to a suspension later tonight, pre-empting the tough bargaining post-poned on the initial deadlock. In talks, the first such negotiations for 13 months. Cypriot spokesman Sean Christofides said of Turkish federal plan: "We are the concept, but of course we will be studying the text fully." A Turkish had presented proposals for a bilateral treaty between two states that do not exist," he said. Turkish-Cypriot negotiator

Steps taken to form independent Afro-Arab news-sharing union

TRIPOLI, April 1 (AFP). — Editors of 36 Arab and African news agencies ended a five-day conference here last night by taking two important steps towards breaking their countries' present dependence, even for news about themselves, on the big world agencies. As a first stage they agreed a joint programme of news-sharing which will take them a step on from the cooperation which already exists among many countries in the bloc. The programme will come into force immediately. In the longer term they foresee establishing a body to help poorer countries overcome technical problems and acquire communications equipment. Access to a virtual pool of equipment will give these poorer, mainly African nations, the dreamed-of opportunity to inform the world about their resources and aspirations and about the African continent's national liberation struggles. The Arab agencies will gain news offices in various African countries under the first stage of the programme. ARNA, the Libyan news agency, for example is to open three African bureaux straight away, all with direct lines to Tripoli. The conference was all set to act immediately on aid to the poorer agencies. The only hold-up seemed to be that their editors were not able to provide off-the-cuff details on their needs else an aid package might have been settled on the spot. They will get the chance to supply their lists in three months' time when the African and Arab news agencies' unions meet. The urgency which marked this week's meeting was quite different from the atmosphere of the last conference two years ago. The Afro-Arab countries seem set on establishing a "new world order" in news dissemination to match their aspirations towards a new economic order. This spirit was nowhere more apparent than in the agencies' ambitious plans for training schemes, starting with the creation of an Afro-Arab News Agencies' Training Institute, a project in which UNESCO is to be involved. Until the institute becomes a reality, Tunisia's TAP, Iraq's INA and the Libyan agency have committed themselves to running 16 professional courses and seven beneficiaries of these have already been named — Namibia (South West Africa), Azania (South Africa), Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau.

Labour Party loses U.K.'s by-election

LONDON, April 1 (R). — Britain's minority Labour government lost a party stronghold today in a parliamentary by-election and found itself even more tied to a shaky new alliance with the small Liberal Party. The new setback came only a week after Prime Minister James Callaghan engineered a reluctant alliance with the Liberals whose 13-vote support in parliament gives the government a majority over the combined opposition forces and avoids a general election. But the 17.5 per cent swing towards the Conservatives at Stechford, a safe Labour seat for 27 years, followed a last-minute revolt by the new government allies, the Liberals, who announced they would oppose budget resolutions to raise petrol prices and car taxes. While Labour Party General Secretary Ron Hayward blamed industrial strife and fear of job losses at the big Leyland car plants near Stechford, Birmingham, for the defeat today, Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher called it: "The people's verdict on the Labour government."

DRAMATIC INCREASE IN AQABA PORT EFFICIENCY THREATENS FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS

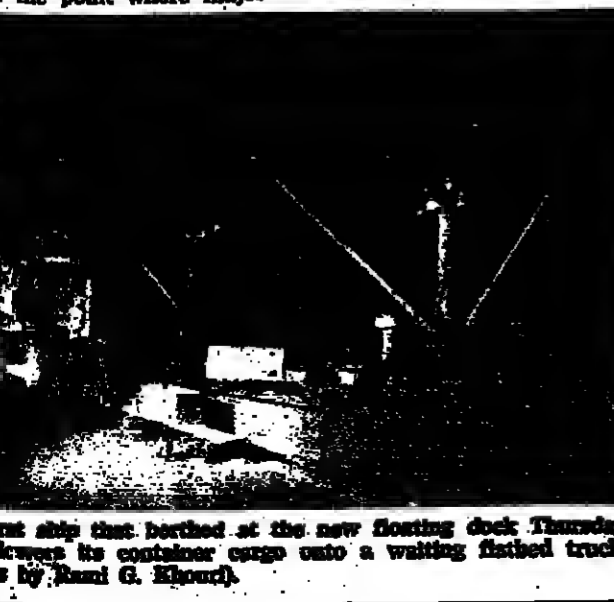
By Rami G. Khouri
The Jordan Times has been told by several port officials and other sources closely involved in the port expansion works that the planned addition of four new major berths, two roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) berths, two smaller berths and two lighterage berths, as well as storage areas, is now in serious doubt because all the additional capacity of these new facilities is no longer needed, and is unlikely to be needed before 1981. The JD 18 million expansion project is being designed and supervised by the British firm Parsons, Brown & Newell and the Jordanian firm Jouzy & Partners, while the letter of intent for the construction works was awarded last October to the joint venture of the British company Tarmac International and the Jordanian firm Shahn Engineering & Contracting Company. The status of the expansion plans has been in limbo since last autumn, and the government has not yet given any indication of what it will do in view of the dramatic turnaround in the congestion picture at Aqaba. Several knowledgeable sources in Aqaba say that a scaling-down of the project is highly likely, perhaps to building an additional one or two major berths only. There is also the possibility that the entire expansion project may be scrapped for the moment, or implemented in stages over a longer period of time. The new situation has arisen because the port's handling capacity is far higher today than it was last spring when the expansion plans were drawn up. The new port management team that was brought in last summer has introduced extensive new cargo handling systems and increased the numbers of workers and machinery to the point where the port's handling capacity has been increased more than four-fold. Port Director General Ahmed Fawzi Abu Nuwar told the Jordan Times that the port's cargo unloading capacity last summer averaged between 1,500-2,000 tons per day. It has now been raised to between 6,000-7,000 tons per day. This sharp rise in efficiency has been due to several factors, most important of which are doubling of the port's labour force, the introduction of a new system of quickly moving goods through the port and customs formalities and on to consignees, the increasing use of more efficient cargo systems such as containerisation and ro-ro, the introduction of new and better mechanical handling equipment (fork-lift and pallet systems, primarily) and an increasing use of lighterage and barge facilities to unload ships as they are at anchor out in the harbour. Mr. Abu Nuwar said that a recent review of the port's efficiency showed that the amount of cargo it handled between August and December 1976 averaged 86,000 tons per month. In January and February this year it rose to 144,000 tons, and in March the port handled 180,000 tons of cargo. The result of this new found productivity is that the port has been officially declared un-congested and all surcharges that had been imposed have been dropped. Two days ago, there were only three ships waiting to dock. Last year at this time, there were 45, with waiting times hovering around the two-three month mark. A ship coming into Aqaba now can expect to dock within a few hours of its arrival if its arrival is previously scheduled. The few ships that have to wait a day or two, such as those waiting this week, do so because they arrive unannounced or without previously declaring what cargo they carry. The port's annual statistics remain impressive. While Aqaba port handled 663,000 tons of imports in 1975, last year it handled 1,368,000, or nearly double the 1975 figure. This year, according to port officials, the port can handle up to two million tons of cargo with its existing two berths. But a more realistic figure for 1977 will be somewhere around the 1976 figure of 1,368 million. With one floating dock now in service, and the second due to enter service in September, the port's capacity will be increased by at least another 500,000 tons per year, so that capacity at Aqaba now far exceeds anticipated traffic, suddenly making the vast expansion plans unnecessary. Director General Abu Nuwar says the port now has facilities to cover anticipated traffic until at least 1981, and he suggests a step-by-step approach to expansion instead of the full building plans being implemented all at once. He is pressing to have some of the West German money that is financing the expansion project diverted to buy sophisticated new container handling equipment for the two floating docks. He says the installation of "straddle carrier" unloading machinery will make Aqaba as sophisticated as any European port, and will make it that much more attractive to Gulf countries that receive their transit goods via Aqaba. (Tomorrow: Floating docks handle container and transit traffic that are the trend of the future).

uncertainty now hangs over the port's vast and expensive expansion plans. The Jordan Times has been told by several port officials and other sources closely involved in the port expansion works that the planned addition of four new major berths, two roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) berths, two smaller berths and two lighterage berths, as well as storage areas, is now in serious doubt because all the additional capacity of these new facilities is no longer needed, and is unlikely to be needed before 1981. The JD 18 million expansion project is being designed and supervised by the British firm Parsons, Brown & Newell and the Jordanian firm Jouzy & Partners, while the letter of intent for the construction works was awarded last October to the joint venture of the British company Tarmac International and the Jordanian firm Shahn Engineering & Contracting Company. The status of the expansion plans has been in limbo since last autumn, and the government has not yet given any indication of what it will do in view of the dramatic turnaround in the congestion picture at Aqaba. Several knowledgeable sources in Aqaba say that a scaling-down of the project is highly likely, perhaps to building an additional one or two major berths only. There is also the possibility that the entire expansion project may be scrapped for the moment, or implemented in stages over a longer period of time. The new situation has arisen because the port's handling capacity is far higher today than it was last spring when the expansion plans were drawn up. The new port management team that was brought in last summer has introduced extensive new cargo handling systems and increased the numbers of workers and machinery to the point where the port's handling capacity has been increased more than four-fold. Port Director General Ahmed Fawzi Abu Nuwar told the Jordan Times that the port's cargo unloading capacity last summer averaged between 1,500-2,000 tons per day. It has now been raised to between 6,000-7,000 tons per day. This sharp rise in efficiency has been due to several factors, most important of which are doubling of the port's labour force, the introduction of a new system of quickly moving goods through the port and customs formalities and on to consignees, the increasing use of more efficient cargo systems such as containerisation and ro-ro, the introduction of new and better mechanical handling equipment (fork-lift and pallet systems, primarily) and an increasing use of lighterage and barge facilities to unload ships as they are at anchor out in the harbour. Mr. Abu Nuwar said that a recent review of the port's efficiency showed that the amount of cargo it handled between August and December 1976 averaged 86,000 tons per month. In January and February this year it rose to 144,000 tons, and in March the port handled 180,000 tons of cargo. The result of this new found productivity is that the port has been officially declared un-congested and all surcharges that had been imposed have been dropped. Two days ago, there were only three ships waiting to dock. Last year at this time, there were 45, with waiting times hovering around the two-three month mark. A ship coming into Aqaba now can expect to dock within a few hours of its arrival if its arrival is previously scheduled. The few ships that have to wait a day or two, such as those waiting this week, do so because they arrive unannounced or without previously declaring what cargo they carry. The port's annual statistics remain impressive. While Aqaba port handled 663,000 tons of imports in 1975, last year it handled 1,368,000, or nearly double the 1975 figure. This year, according to port officials, the port can handle up to two million tons of cargo with its existing two berths. But a more realistic figure for 1977 will be somewhere around the 1976 figure of 1,368 million. With one floating dock now in service, and the second due to enter service in September, the port's capacity will be increased by at least another 500,000 tons per year, so that capacity at Aqaba now far exceeds anticipated traffic, suddenly making the vast expansion plans unnecessary. Director General Abu Nuwar says the port now has facilities to cover anticipated traffic until at least 1981, and he suggests a step-by-step approach to expansion instead of the full building plans being implemented all at once. He is pressing to have some of the West German money that is financing the expansion project diverted to buy sophisticated new container handling equipment for the two floating docks. He says the installation of "straddle carrier" unloading machinery will make Aqaba as sophisticated as any European port, and will make it that much more attractive to Gulf countries that receive their transit goods via Aqaba. (Tomorrow: Floating docks handle container and transit traffic that are the trend of the future).

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This view shows the cargo ship alongside the floating dock that juts out into the Gulf of Aqaba.



First ship that berthed at the new floating dock Thursday & lowered its container cargo onto a waiting flatbed truck. (By Rami G. Khouri).

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Editorial and Advertising Offices: JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION
University Road - P.O. Box 5710 - Amman, Jordan
Tel. 57171/2/3/4 - Cable: JORTIMES - Telex: 1487 (ARAB)

Controversy hits Washington over Russia's intentions

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CSM). — Washington hasn't seen anything like this since the great missile gap controversy 17 years ago.

For several months now, a chaotic debate over whether the Russians are trying to achieve strategic superiority over the United States has raged across the capital city.

The debate has been carried on in speeches and seminars, in the closed circles of intelligence officers and the open forum of the U.S. Senate. It is reaching the rest of the nation through the news media.

What few of the experts emphasize in their zeal to win their arguments is that no one has all the answers. In a field as complex as this one, involving the awesome and untested U.S. and Soviet nuclear striking forces -- there is plenty of room for ambiguity.

A question as seemingly simple as, "Is it the Russians or the Americans -- or both of them -- who fuel the arms race?" provokes widely varying comment from the experts.

But while the intensity of feelings generated by the current debate is building, which erupted with the missile gap controversy of 1959-60, there the similarities end. The new debate involves much more than the simple question of who's ahead in the construction of new missiles.

In the new controversy, there appears to be little doubt as to how many missiles each side possesses and is building. Thanks to improved intelligence-gathering techniques, including the use of reconnaissance satellites, this kind of question can be answered with reasonable accuracy.

The new controversy is concerned with Soviet intentions more than with Soviet capabilities. Thus, it involves subjective judgments on Soviet history, psychology, and likely future actions.

It requires an assessment of the emphasis the Soviets have placed on civil defense, and it requires complex analyses of the apparently huge share of the Soviet gross national product (GNP) that is devoted to defence.

The seeds of the debate actually go back to 1975, when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) concluded that the Soviets were devoting a much larger portion of their GNP to defence than had been originally estimated.

CIA analysts calculated that instead of 6 to 8 per cent of GNP, as originally estimated, the Soviets were devoting 11 to 13 per cent to defence. The United States spends on defence about 6 per cent of its GNP, which is more than twice that of the Soviet Union.

Not long thereafter, John Collins, a senior defence analyst with the research services of the Library of Congress, did a study showing the Soviets were making gains -- not only in the quantity of their strategic and conventional weapons but also in the quality.

Four months ago, a group of prominent citizens, generally regarded as "hard-liners" in their attitudes toward the Soviet Union organized a "Committee on the Present Danger" and sounded their own alarm over what they perceived to be a drive by the Soviets toward strategic dominance.

The debate began to gain wider attention when the retiring Air Force Chief of Intelligence, Maj Gen. George J. Kegan, came out with a claim that the Russians were not just driving for superiority but had already achieved it, a claim which most experts quickly refuted.

Controversial leaks of information concerning a panel of outside experts who were recommended by the president's foreign intelligence advisory board to take a look at the annual intelligence estimate of Soviet capabilities and intentions indicated that the Soviets were, indeed, striving for superiority -- if they had not already achieved it.

On its way out of office, the Ford administration did little to discourage such reports. An exception was outgoing Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who said he did not believe the Soviet Union was achieving military supremacy.

All this occurred against a background of considerable public disillusionment with the policy of "détente," a policy which had been highly publicized by President Nixon as he fought for his political life in the Watergate affair.

"Détente" had suffered from Soviet actions during the Middle East war of 1973 and in Angola in 1975-76. Many analysts had begun to suspect the worst of the Soviets.

And "hard-liners" in the defence debate began to stress the theme that, while the Russians were probably not crazy enough to launch a nuclear attack, they desired nuclear superiority as a means of exerting political leverage -- possibly with the intent of "blackmailing" Western Europe and engaging in further "Angolas".

"The missile gap debate was much narrower than the one that's going on now," says a veteran defence department analyst. "I think the only thing comparable to this would have been the kind of debate we

had right after the war, when we were putting together a basic strategy for dealing with and competing with the Soviets."

The current debate could mark both a psychological and technological turning point. New American attitudes toward the Soviet Union could be generated affecting relations and arms control agreements for an indefinite period.

Technologically, both the U.S. and Soviet Union are on the verge of launching into the full-scale development of whole "families" of new weapons which will immensely complicate the business of trying to verify who is or is not adhering to an arms agreement.

But President Carter and his new team appear to be reject-

ing what they consider to be alarmist views of Soviet intentions.

Mr. Carter's statements have been disturbing to the "hawks" in the national security establishment. But what has perhaps ruffled their feathers more than anything else has been his appointments in the national security field.

Some of the "hawks" had pressed for the return of former Secretary of Defence James R. Schlesinger to his old Pentagon job. But Mr. Carter appointed instead a more "moderate" figure, Harold Brown.

Mr. Carter's most controversial appointment in this important field, however, has proven to be Paul C. Warnke as chief arms control executive.

European unity still seems a long way off

The Treaty of Rome, signed twenty years ago, on March 25, 1957, by six nations -- France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg -- set up the European Economic Community (EEC) better known as the Common Market. Four years ago the original six became nine with the entry of Britain, Denmark and Ireland. How fares the community as it enters its 21st year?

The Treaty of Rome, like the city of Rome, was not built in a day. Behind its achievement lay centuries of vague longing for European unity, generations of patient propaganda and years of laborious negotiations.

Foremost among the propagandists was a little Frenchman in the brassy business named Jean Monnet, whose philosophy was summed up in the maxim: "Le plus beau meurtre des hommes, c'est d'unir les hommes" (the best of all tasks for a man is to unite men).

It was Mr. Monnet who planned the first of the supranational European communities, the one launched in 1950 by the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, for the pooling of West Europe's coal and steel production and designed, among other things, to make another war between France and Germany "not only unthinkable but materially impossible".

Six countries -- France, West Germany and Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg -- joined the Schuman pool.

Monnet's next project was a European defence community. It foundered, in 1954, on the adverse vote of the French parliament.

But soon two more communities (one might almost call them "communités") were conceived. One was Euratom, for the integration of atomic energy production; the other, the European Economic Community, better known as the Common Market. Both were established by the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

How do things stand today, twenty years later?

The treaty's first objective -- the common market -- has been achieved. Within the community there is free trade in industrial goods and agricultural

produce and free movement for capital and labour, and against the rest of the world, there is a uniform tariff wall.

But the treaty's next objective -- full economic and monetary union, with a common currency for all -- is still only being talked about. The latest plan, put up by the Dutch last summer, has just been killed by the affluent West Germans, who argue that economic union is impossible as long as the economies of the member countries diverge as widely as they now do.

The ultimate objective -- political union: The United States of Europe that Briand called for after the first world war and Churchill after the second -- remains as distant as ever.

Ten years ago the three communities -- coal and steel, Euratom, economic -- were streamlined into one, and four years ago, with the entry of Britain, Denmark and Ireland, the original six became the nine.

Today, with a population of 260 millions, the EEC represents, in the words of Australia's Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, "probably the most technologically advanced, the most sophisticated and the wealthiest grouping of nations the world has ever seen."

The community's own citizens, it should be said, take a less rosy view of it. The most recent opinion poll among them shows that only 55 per cent of those questioned think the community is a good thing, and in Britain and Denmark considerably more people believe things would actually get better if their country got out.

The British people's discontent is explained by one short word: CAP. The acronym for the Common Agricultural Policy, whose rules and regulations were largely dictated by de Gaulle for the protection and enrichment of the inefficient French farmers.

For the British consumer, long accustomed to cheap food from abroad, the soaring prices decreed by CAP, the moun-

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishri

Let's scrap April Fools' Day

Yesterday -- in case nobody's practical joke alerted you to the fact -- was April Fools' Day which is the once-a-year day wherein human beings can be sure no one will frown upon them if they treated each other dishonestly. Not, please note, that people do actually save their other 364-days' worth of dishonesty for this one solitary day, but that their peers and betters alike are not allowed the self-righteous glory of taking them to task if they were dishonest on April 1.

I do not claim to know what was, in days long past, the original intention behind the sanctioning of this one particular day for the suspension of squeamish ethical strictures whereby, by common consent, society allows itself a free expression of human dishonesty. But it seems to me that it must have had something to do with exactly this idea of sanctioning.

Whoever invented April Fools' Day -- and I would suspect him of having been a very pious and a very honest man who, in spite of that, must have had enough humanity left in him to possess some human weakness -- realised that a lifetime of pure honesty in preparation for Judgement Day was just a little bit too much of a burden to bear. He, therefore, searched for a way to ease the burden somewhat, and being well-rooted in the classics -- as all learned men in those bygone ages were -- he recalled what the Philosopher Aristotle, taught that all tragedy -- such as human life while it prepares for Judgement Day -- needs to have a catharsis -- which is the Greek brand-name for a very effective laxative. In every tragedy, Aristotle said, one must have a point at which the accumulating tension is allowed to be relaxed. Our inventor, thus, hit upon the similar idea of allowing his fellow human beings to take a laxative of sorts on April 1. He authorised them, for the duration of these 24 hours in every one of their earthly years, to express the residue of whatever dishonesty -- purely animal he termed it -- they may still harbour for each other after a whole year of unrelieved honesty. This they could do, he assured them, without fear of retribution -- divine or otherwise -- and without the need to feel the piercing pangs of a saintly conscience.

For a long while afterwards, this anonymous genius was regarded by humanity -- whether humanity knew who in effect he was or not -- as a liberator and benefactor of mankind. But that was in the not-so-good old days when our ancestors thought, amazingly enough, that dishonesty was something intrinsically bad and, astonishingly enough, that it was something foreign to the human race.

However, as with a lot of other things in our culture, the great leap forward which scientific knowledge has accomplished since those dark days has shown how naive and inaccurate our ancestors were. According to the best of contemporary experts on the subject, dishonesty, far from being bad, is the golden key to success -- and success, as the manuals never tire of teaching us and the advertisements never refrain from persuading us, is the

one truly worthy goal of our lives; not preparation for Judgement Day. The best our learned scholars insist that dishonesty the rule, not the exception, in natural human behaviour -- which is probably why so many people ever find they have an unsatisfied or to be spectacularly dishonest on April 1.

Proof is that if any man nowadays can up with the idea of setting aside, say, April's Stealing Day -- whereby the police not lock you up if you steal on that day -- no other -- such a man will most certainly reap what he deserves: Get laughed off, strait into the nearest mental asylum -- not into nearest prison, mind you. Therefore, we can imagine how our ancestors were able to fit in themselves to hold the inventor of April Fools' Day in reverence as they did. In learned age we reserve the high distinction designating "liberators" and "benefactors" only those who are the truly gigantic men -- like the late Sigmund Freud, for instance -- who freed consciences of us from so many our most baffling burdens by showing us the results of lack of success in resolving or another of our Anal, Oral or Oedipal Complexes -- or of all of these, plus others in hap, put together.

Therefore, the inventor of April Fools' Day was really nobody's fool but his own and that, not only on April 1 of any given year, but for the whole of his useless, unsuccess life beginning on that unmemorable day shouted "Bural".

It is manifest, therefore, that we do need to set aside a once-a-year day for an in that which the greatest of our age and the best and most up-to-date of our knowledge have unanimously demonstrated by a shadow of a doubt to be our most and most common social inclination. We do not need an April Fools' Day to be dishonest for we have an annual 365 of these. Rather need to set aside one day a year in which allow ourselves to let go upon the rest mankind the residue which annually accretes of that frustrating and burdensome -ness of wanting to be against all logic a distance of all practical purposes, honest could call this laxative: April's Honest Day.

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Where praise is due

The ceremony in Aqaba today to inaugurate the new floating dock will be widely trumpeted in the local press as a great achievement for Jordan. It is, in the sense that it is more testament to the increasing economic activity in the country that requires additional infrastructural facilities. But in another sense, the floating dock is testament to Jordan's vast dependence on foreign sources of aid. The dock was made, brought in and installed by the Japanese, and paid for by loans and grants. The pattern is the normal one for Jordan. The success of the nation's planners is that Jordan maintains the confidence of enough foreign states and private investors to be able to get the loans and grants it requires.

But we think it is a little bit missing the mark to dwell on the beautiful floating dock, when the real achievement has been in the effort of the past year to clear up the mess at Aqaba port. In fact, the port is now uncongested, and surcharges on ships that dock there have been removed because there is no more waiting time. A few days ago, three ships were waiting to dock, and they only had to wait because they had not informed the port management ahead of time of their cargoes. Had they done so, they could have docked immediately.

The success of the new team that now runs Aqaba port, under the eye of Director-General Ahmed Fawzi Abu Nuwar, is what Jordan should be proud of. The increase in the port's efficiency has been dramatic. The parallel development of note is that the port is now being run largely by Jordanians. The technical aid of the West German staff that has been involved with the port has surely been of real value at a critical time in the port's (and the country's) development. But the encouraging thing now is that Jordanians have taken over the day-to-day operations of the port, and they are maintaining the new efficiency of the place. These people are demonstrating the kinds of skills that Jordan requires. They identified problems and bottlenecks and moved quickly to overcome them. They have not required vast amounts of money, but rather have produced results by employing their labour more efficiently and introducing new systems and administrative procedures geared to the productivity that all developing nations require. In short, they got the job done, and they should be on top of the list when it comes time to handing out praise.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies commented in their Friday editorials on the speech His Majesty King Hussein delivered at graduation ceremony at the Royal Police Academy here Thursday, in which he warned that international political circumstances in which the Middle East is now passing are extremely delicate and sensitive and require the utmost vigilance and courage, particular, to face... against it.

of Arab solidarity, the paper concluded.

AL SHA'AB, which also discussed His Majesty's warnings, said that he outlined an historical fact that enemy conspiracies against this country have never stopped since the moment Jordan came into existence. These conspiracies have helped to polish the country's will to accept challenges and confrontations.

The Jordanian state was originally established against the will... and Zionist forces.

AL RA'I, under the heading "The conspiracy" said that the delicate international situation imposes a balance between our role as opposers to the solutions aiming at "dissolving the Palestinian problem" and that of the enemy forces which are trying to bring about the "dissolution".

As a party rejecting the idea of a Palestinian homeland, Israel is in no position at present to carry out directly the instrumentation of the solution, the paper added. It acts through its "friends" in Washington and tries to implement its own peace plans for the region by having them adopted by the U.S. and letting them appear as if they are American plans.

No doubt, the paper said, the enemy is well aware of the relationship between the leaders and people of this country and are familiar with the nature of Jordan's role in the framework of Arab solidarity. We expect the enemy conspiracies to become more intense, the paper added, as our role as defenders of the Arab cause becomes more powerful.

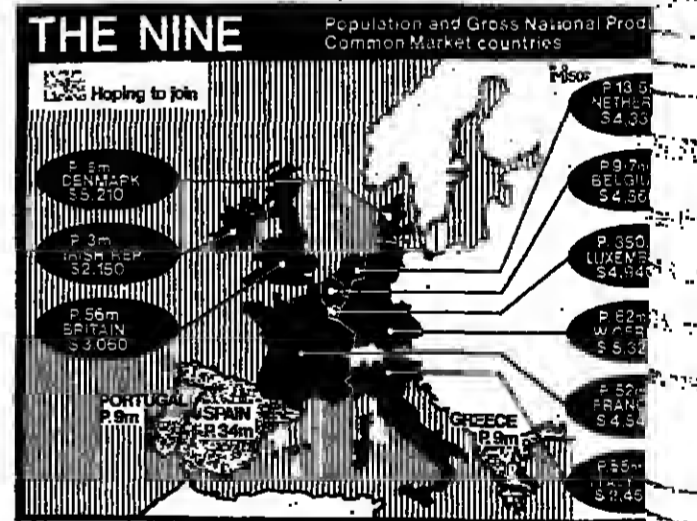
As we have successfully faced enemy conspiracies in the past, so will we be ready and capable to oppose them again, now and in the future, whatever their magnitude. We will do so guided by Jordan's courageous and wise leadership. The awareness of the real facts of the situation and with support

These facts have obliged Jordan to face foreign challenges and conspiracies not only to defend its own existence but also to defend the Arab nation; its existence and future. Jordan has accepted its fate and shouldered its responsibilities having as its only weapon, faith in itself and the inevitability of Arab victory.

We are not putting forward a new fact, the paper added, when we say that the Palestinian question is the essence of all foreign challenges against which the Arab nation has stood in modern history nor that the conspiracies are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question at the expense of Arab rights. Jordan, being at the forefront as the defender of the Palestinian cause, consequently has been the first against which the conspiracies have been directed, as it is the case at present, with efforts being spent to liquidate definitively the Palestinian problem.

We are sure of Jordan's inevitable victory as it is based on this country's belief and determination to provide security and stability in all fields under Jordan's wise leadership.

With the awareness of its people and the courage of its leadership, Jordan will remain an Arab bastion against which conspiracies will always break, the paper concluded.



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION	AMMAN AIRPORT	VOICE OF AMERICA
Channel 3 & 6: 6:00 Quran, 6:05 Children's programme, 6:30 English by television, 8:00 News in Arabic, Channel 3: 7:30 Family programme, 8:30 Arabic series	Arrivals: 7:50 Cairo (EA), 8:20 Dubai (Abhaila), 8:25 Muscat, Doha, 8:45 Bahrain, Dubai, 8:50 Tehran, 9:00 Amman, 9:05 Beirut, 10:30 Cairo, 11:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI), 11:45 Kuwait (KAC), 12:05 Rawalpindi (RA), 12:45 London (BA), 12:50 Rome, Paris, 12:45 Kuwait (KAC), 12:45 London (BA), 12:15 Jeddah (SDI), 12:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai, 21:45 Bahrain (BA)	GMT: 03:00 The Breakfast Show: 19:00 News and Topics on the hour and 28 min., 06:30 after each hour, 17:00 News, 17:15 This Week, 17:30 Press Conference USA, 18:00 Special English, News, Words and the day, 18:00 Special English, News, Words and the day, 20:15 Music USA (1st Stories, News Summary), 21:00 News
(On 896 KEZ) 7:30 Morning melodies, 7:30 News, 7:40 News reports, 8:00 Sign off, 10:00 Listeners choice, 11:00 My idea of music, 11:30 Catch the words, 11:45 Arab scientists, 12:00 Pop session, 13:00 News summary, 13:05 Pop session, 14:00 News	9:20 Reportage, Channel 6: 7:30 News in Hebrew, 7:45 Varieties, 8:30 Get some in, 8:10 Saturday variety show, 10:00 News in English, 10:15 Movie of the week	18:30 Country Music, 19:00 News and Topics on the hour and 28 min., 19:15 Letters from LA, 19:30 New York, New York, 20:00 Special English, 20:00 Special English, Words and the day, 20:15 Music USA (1st Stories, News Summary), 21:00 News
EMERGENCIES: Doctors: Amman: Anwar Mousa Abdallah (75555), Saif Abdel Kader Rashid (75200), Irbid: Mohamed Al Shari (3670), Marab Khalaf (3685), Zarqa: Gazi Roussan (32786), Pharmacies: Amman: Khoul (28290)	14:10 Radio magazine, 14:30 Good vibrations, 15:00 Concert hour, 16:00 Old favourites, 16:30 Easy listening, 17:00 Jordan weekly, 17:30 Pop session, 18:00 News summary, 18:15 Music, 18:30 Varieties, 19:00 News, 19:10 Music	18:30 News; Commentary, 18:15 Business and Industry, 18:20 A City and its Music, 14:30 News, 14:05 Grand National preview, 05:45 The World Today, 06:00 News; Press Review, 06:30 News; Press Review, 06:30 Bob Holmes Requests, 07:15 From the Weeklies, 07:20 Grand National preview, 07:45 Letter from London, 07:58 A Musical Dictionary, 08:15 Europe, 08:20 Doritay Pope, 09:00 News; Press Review, 09:15 The World Today, 09:20 Financial News, 09:45 Come to the Opera, 10:15 Scotland 77, 10:20 Matthew on Music, 11:00 News, 11:15 Europe, 11:30 The Toff on the Farm, 12:00 Radio News, 12:15 Brats of Britain, 12:45 Sports Round-up
	BBC RADIO: GMT: 05:00 News; Press Review, 05:15 Letterbox, 05:30 Grand National preview, 05:45 The World Today, 06:00 News; Press Review, 06:30 Bob Holmes Requests, 07:15 From the Weeklies, 07:20 Grand National preview, 07:45 Letter from London, 07:58 A Musical Dictionary, 08:15 Europe, 08:20 Doritay Pope, 09:00 News; Press Review, 09:15 The World Today, 09:20 Financial News, 09:45 Come to the Opera, 10:15 Scotland 77, 10:20 Matthew on Music, 11:00 News, 11:15 Europe, 11:30 The Toff on the Farm, 12:00 Radio News, 12:15 Brats of Britain, 12:45 Sports Round-up	18:30 Country Music, 19:00 News and Topics on the hour and 28 min., 19:15 Letters from LA, 19:30 New York, New York, 20:00 Special English, 20:00 Special English, Words and the day, 20:15 Music USA (1st Stories, News Summary), 21:00 News
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		Cultural Centres: American Centre (USIS) Tel. 4188, British Council Tel. 3612, French Cultural Centre Tel. 3708, Goethe Institute Tel. 4288, Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 4288, Amman Municipal Library Tel. 3811

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Nayef Abdullah of the University of Jordan Hospital delivers lecture at the first medical conference of the Society of Internal Medicine at the Professional Association Building Friday. Lectures of discussion on cardio-vascular diseases, neurology, gastroenterology and endocrinology took place. (JNA photo).

Majali leaves for Islamic education meet

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Education Abdul Salam Majali left here Friday for Mecca at the head of a Jordanian delegation to attend the first international conference on Islamic education in universities. Another delegation representing the University of Jordan headed by President Dr. Isma'q Al Farhan, also left for Mecca. The nine-day conference will be attended by 40 Arab and Islamic states.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK STARTS

AMMAN (JNA). — National Book Week is being observed as from Saturday.

On this occasion, Minister of Culture and Youth Shariq Fawwaz Sharrat stated that one of his ministry's policies is to establish a national library with branches all over the country. He also announced that the rules for state awards for Jordanian writers and artists had been approved.

CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE DUE OUT SOON

Jordan's first children's illustrated magazine, "Samer", will be issued in the first week of April.

The periodical aims to improve the child's talents and psychological, social, educational and physical potential. Illustrated columns of a lighter nature will keep up the magazine.

AGRICULTURE STUDY STARTS

AMMAN (JNA). — An agricultural field team from the Department of Statistics Saturday starts collecting statistical data connected with planted areas in the present agricultural season. Grain, cereal, vegetable and fruit tree production in the Irbiid, Karak and Ma'an governorates will come under study.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:		
U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.0	138.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	130.6	131.0
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.7	94.0
Lebanese pound	109.3	109.6
Syrian pound	81.7	82.0
Iraqi dinar	943.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,147.0	1,155.0
Egyptian pound	485.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	810.0
UAE dirham	84.9	85.5

Awqaf minister: Zionist enemy destroys Islam

AMMAN (R). — Minister of Awqaf Kamel Al Sharif Friday led on world powers and organisations to rally to the liberation of the Arabs on the Israeli-occupied territories.

Addressing Friday prayers in Amman's main mosque, he also called on the Moslem states "to rush to the salvation of Jerusalem."

NOV. '76 EXPORTS TO ITALY JUMP 15%; IMPORTS 150%

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's exports to Italy in November 1976 went up by only 15.3 per cent compared with the same month in 1975, whereas her imports in Italy over the same period jumped by 150 per cent. Figures released by the Department of Statistics indicated that Jordan's exports to Italy amounted to JD 98,000 against \$5,000 in November 1975. Exports from Italy totalled JD 33,000 against JD 230,000 in November 1975.

He said Jordan will continue to support the Arabs on the occupied territory, who stood up against "Zionist occupation in their efforts to liberate their holy places and obtain their legitimate rights."

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BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday April 6 at the British Embassy Club. There will be an informal discussion on local customs. Children, new members, and Commonwealth ladies welcome.

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- Jabel Amman: Tel. No. 42792 — Prince Mohammed Street — Jordan Insurance Bldg. — Third Circle.
- Jabel Loubdah: Tel. No. 32887 — Near Ministry of Reconstruction — Sabah Khayri Bldg.
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Women find a developing role in Jordan's work force-II

This is the third part of a three part series on the role of women in Jordan's economy. It is taken from a research paper presented last year at the symposium on manpower development in Amman. This part deals with the cost and effect of women working in the society.

Women's work: Cost vs. Returns

The economics of women's participation in the labour force lie within the subject of investment in human capital. Perhaps the most important element in this field is the economics of discrimination between individuals on the basis of sex. In Jordan there is no discrimination against women in wages, as is the case in some advanced, industrialised countries. But discrimination is apparent in granting women job opportunities.

The reasons for this discrimination go back to two basic elements. Firstly, the decision regarding woman's work is still left to the family. They adopt the decision to allow female members of the family to work, depending on the family's economic standard and social attitudes. Secondly, the economic development in Jordan -- rapid as it might be -- has not come up to the point where it would be easy for a woman to decide whether to work or not. Jordan still lacks the supporting services usually accorded working women in other countries.

These two reasons are possibly interrelated. If women were to participate alongside men, in work, we should influence the family's decisions allowing women to work. A woman's work in the home continues to be basic and necessary and consumes a long period of her time. Therefore, supporting services must be introduced so that women can minimise the time allocated to the accomplishment of their household chores, thus finding enough time for work outside the home. The provision of these supporting services would affect the family's decision to allow women to work.

The emergence of women as active members in the labour market has two significant advantages in the field of development. In the first place, women are an important factor in the unutilised elements of production. Therefore, encouraging women to work would raise Jordan to a better point along the national production function. Secondly, an increase in the number of workers, through women participation, would elevate the production function as a whole to a higher level. This, indeed, is the essence of development, summarised in the re-employment of the factors of production in a better fashion and the elevation of the entire production process to higher levels. Since the employment of women is in harmony with the general objective of development, it must be encouraged and supported.

In order to emphasise the expected benefits drawn from women's work, let us imagine that Jordan's economy is composed of two diverse sectors or that it suffers from duality at the level of the labour force. The first sector is that of men who go out to work. The second sector is that of women who stay at home to perform their chores. We cannot claim that women staying at home do not perform any work; they do and it takes most of their working hours. But, if we introduce some improved technological services to women's domestic work, many females would suffer from disguised unemployment. Therefore, these women could be withdrawn from household work and transferred to fields of men's work where they could participate in development.

In spite of the fact that the returns from women's participation in work are apparent, measurement of such contribution is very difficult, for women's engagement in work has economic gains, some of which can be obtained in the short run while others can only be obtained in the long

run. All, however, defy measurement. But, women's participation does not, at the beginning, mean only a return; it also implies a social cost. Since Jordanian planners want to divert the decision to allow women to work from the family to the general public, they must evaluate the cost of such a decision, especially insofar as the supporting services are concerned.

The most important services required for enabling women to go out and work are:

Nurseries

The birth rate in Jordan is one of the highest in the world -- 4.8 per cent. This rate tends to concentrate the majority of the population in the under fifteen age group -- around 50 per cent. And, since most girls get married young, women of the productive work age are burdened with raising their children. Assuming that the family size in Jordan is 6 persons, the number of children per family is four. Assuming further that two of those children are in the nursery age group, it would be apparent that the need exists for more nurseries and kindergartens where children can be cared for during the mother absence at work.

Ministry of education figures indicate that the number of children in nurseries and kindergartens in the 1974-1975 scholastic year was 15,107 while the number of schools was around 160 -- an average of 95 children per school. In 1973-1974, the number of children in nurseries and kindergartens was about 14,261, while the number of specialised nurseries or kindergartens was only 51. The rest were incorporated in elementary schools which included nurseries and kindergartens. The ministry of education decided to separate nurseries and kindergartens from elementary schools and the number rose from 51 to 61.

Comparing the number of children enrolled in nurseries and kindergartens to those in the nurseries age, one finds that the ratio is indeed very low. In 1974, the department of statistics estimated the number of four-year-olds or younger at 390,404. Those who were 5 years old or younger numbered 452,987. Therefore, only 3 per cent of those children who were 5 years old or younger were enrolled in nurseries or kindergartens.

From the foregoing discussion, it is deduced that an increase in women's participation in the labour force necessitates the provision of a larger number of nurseries and the improvement of their standards, some of them being in a bad situation in terms of their health conditions, educationally and in their preparations. Perhaps the other problem to be dealt with is the concentration of most of the nurseries in the city of Amman which means that the distribution of nurseries should be reviewed to incorporate the other cities and villages in the kingdom in which women are expected to start working outside the house.

Training

The fields in which women can contribute to work are varied and wide. But the circumstances of the Jordanian society dictate that women participate only in those jobs which are approved by society -- indeed, these are the jobs in which Jordan suffers from a labour shortage. Specifically, nursing, secretarial positions, typing and sewing are examples. The prevailing conditions -- expected to persist for a long period of time -- dictate increased demand for these services. But such services do not come without training. It is only fair to say that Jordan provides training facilities to those women who are interested in these occupations, and there is no need for more since most of them -- with the exception of nursing -- are available in the private sector.

But, women's work in some industrial fields needs training, since women can perform some non-exhausting tasks -- such as packing -- in the industrial sector, on-the-job training is a method that can be used in this respect. Therefore, it seems that the cost of training in itself will be low compared to the expected benefits.

Durable consumption goods

These commodities facilitate women in going out to work and decrease the time and effort expended in performing household chores. It is noted that demand for these goods depends upon income level and cultural factors. Demand for these commodities is not dependent upon whether women work or not. In the cities, such articles -- as a result of prevailing consumption patterns -- have become essential rather than luxury items. One also observes that women's participation in the labour force is very limited and has expanded only negligibly in recent years. In comparison, however, demand for durable consumption items has tremendously increased. To demonstrate this point, Table I shows the four years from 1972 to 1975.

The figures reveal that demand for these articles is rapidly increasing. Therefore, even if women go out to work, demand for durable consumption articles will not imply large extra cost.

Wages and Taxes

If women are to go out to work, they must be tempted to do so by lucrative wages. We notice, for example, that the average income of the working woman is slightly less than that of a working man. Therefore, there is no discrimination here. But the difference between the two sexes is that men have to go out to work while women have to weigh the cost of their work against its returns.

Some of the cost of women's participation in work is closely related to valid economic laws, especially those concerning taxation on income.

Regulation governing taxation on income apply to both a working man and his wife, and, since income tax is progressive, a woman's income would raise the taxable family income into a higher bracket. In addition, a man loses a tax exemption by not supporting his wife. As a government employee, he also forfeits the "wife allowance" allotted to him in income tax regulations. Therefore, these taxes must be lowered so that the return from women's work will be greater and more encouraging for her to go out to work.

(Editor's note: during the

closing session of the symposium, the minister of finance disputed some of these claims. Interestingly, he maintained that the underlying nature of these measures imply tax discrimination against the husband of a working woman.)

The emergence of women to work will not be drastically sudden. It is slowed down by many social and traditional obstacles. Hence, the cost of such emergence will not be great, but rather divided into small doses or instalments which can be easily absorbed. It is also noted that the rate of urbanisation in Jordan is making big strides forward. Therefore, any cost resulting from supporting services to women's work will necessarily have to be expended whether women go out to work or not. What is required is the expedient provision of these services.

Therefore, the preliminary comparative study of cost and social return resulting from women's work indicates that the benefits are far greater than the cost and that the decision in itself is reasonable and enjoys evident economic feasibility. Even if some cost is incurred in the short run, it would be short-sighted to accept this cost as the criterion in adopting the decision to encourage women to work, since the expected benefits on the long-run are so marked that they would not be shaken by incidental cost.

Some of the most significant long term advantages of increased women participation in

work are: First, the enhancement of the process of urbanisation, since work provides women with knowledge and experience which make them more flexible in understanding the conditions surrounding them and more able to apply newer production and education techniques in their home and place of work. Second, and the more important advantage pertains to the observed correlation between the ratio or working women and the rate of birth. As mentioned earlier Jordan suffers from a high birth rate; this results in a high dependency ratio and a drop in the percentage participation of women in the labour force. Conversely, wider participation on the part of women in the labour force may result in a lower birth rate. As a consequence, the level of consumption will drop.

Results

The problem facing Jordan is no more that of unemployment it is rather the provision of trained labour, including times manual workers. Therefore, Jordan experiencing the current stage of growth, is called upon to provide skilled workers in the various fields of specialisation so that the country's goals are achieved. What is required is not only an increase in the supply of jobs, but in the diverse distribution of this supply to encompass the various specialisations and the various districts, in a bid to enhance the implementation of projects included in the Five-Year Development Plan.

The labour crisis in Jordan results mainly from an increase in the demand for workers outside Jordan, especially in the Arab oil countries. It is further observed that the drain of workers is concentrated in men and that this drain will further continue as long as the Arab labour importing countries undertake the implementation of extensive development projects.

The current conditions in the labour market cause some strangulations inside Jordan which, in some sectors, are almost chronic. Hence, the significance of woman's participation in the labour force, is evident.

A look at the labour market in Jordan reveals low percentage of participation in the labour force -- 20 per cent. For women it is even lower -- 3.8 per cent.

Some dynamic changes have taken place as a result of increased women participation in the labour force; the percentage of married women in the labour force is noticeably increasing; the greatest contribution by women lies in the 20-29 age group. There exists a concentration in the geographic and occupational distribution of working women. It is observed that the majority of working women are in the Amman governorate -- the capital itself, to be precise. On the other hand, most of the economic activity of working women is limited to the traditional fields of services and administration, especially education. From indications and preliminary

observation, no discrimination exists in wages and rises between men and women. However, it can be said some discrimination exists far as promotion and employment opportunities are concerned.

The ratio of women's participation in the labour force depends greatly upon the size and of supporting services which must be provided to enable women to coordinate duties at home and their outside. In reviewing these services, it is observed that there is a great inadequacy in nurseries and kindergartens, day centres for children and theriood and childhood care centres. The problem becoming greater as a result of the high birth rate and increasing number of child. This exerts greater pressure on these services.

The study reveals that there is no strong correlation between the demand on durable consumption goods and increased participation by women in the labour force. This lies in the fact that the demand on durable articles is there and is increasing as a result of urbanisation. Even if the ratio women's participation in labour force does not increase the demand on such commodities will continue to rise. Women's participation in labour force has long benefits, such as a decrease in the birth rate with the attendant drop in the dependency ratio as well as a certain rise in the economically active population.

Millions practise Transcendental Meditation twice a day

Each day before breakfast and again before dinner about a million individuals of all ages and walks of life sit in a comfortable chair and close their eyes. Effortlessly they settle into deeper and deeper states of relaxation while their minds remain alert with enjoyment. They are astronauts, senators, high ranking officers, Wall Street brokers, football players, actors, dancers, scientists, artists, businessmen, professors, doctors, teachers, housewives, students and children.

They are all practitioners of Transcendental Meditation. What are they exactly doing and why?

Here in Amman, the Jordan Times has met a young teacher of Transcendental Meditation, Yussif Ghandour (26 years old) who talked about this technique for release of stress. He has arrived recently from Switzerland after attending a 6 months course at Maharishi European Research University.

By Irene Ramadan Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN TIMES: Is Transcendental Meditation a religion? YUSSIF GHANDOUR: It is neither a religion nor a philosophy, nor a way of life. Transcendental Meditation (T.M.) is a natural technique for reducing stress and expanding conscious awareness.

J.T.: When did T.M. start? Y.G.: It has been in the East for thousands of years, but it was introduced into the West in 1959 by an Indian teacher, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

J.T.: What does "transcendental" mean exactly? Y.G.: The term "transcendental" means going beyond. This term indicates that T.M. spontaneously takes its practice

Y.G.: Because learning to meditate does not involve cultivating a new skill but instead simply allowing an innate ability of the nervous system to unfold, it requires no particular attitude, preparatory ritual, special setting or unusual postures. Though the technique is currently practiced at home, it may be done in any place where a person can sit comfortably without being disturbed. Many busy individuals meditate on planes, trains, buses or in waiting rooms.

Effortless disengagement

J.T.: What happens during Transcendental Meditation?

Y.G.: A person allows his mind to experience a relaxed and enjoyable state which draws his attention inward. He experiences a state in which the mind becomes very quiet, but extraordinarily alert. Though sense impressions, feelings or thoughts may be present during T.M., meditators report brief or sometimes extended periods of "blank awareness", being awake inside with nothing going on, not being asleep, but not being aware of anything in particular. People's wakened attention is generally engaged by the objects of their experience. Our daily experience is made up of an unending cascade of thoughts, emotions, sensations and perceptions. T.M. creates an opportunity for two brief daily periods of effortless disengagement from these continuous impressions. When a meditator allows his attention to shift inward, he experiences quiet levels of the mind in which he becomes increasingly aware of the unbounded nature of his awareness in the absence of objects. This state is termed pure awareness.

J.T.: Can't one experience this unusual state without meditation?

Y.G.: Though the experience has not been widely familiar, it is neither difficult nor unusual. Persons learning T.M. and getting sense of the experience in their first meditation often remark: "Oh yes, I've been there before", or "that happened to me several times when I was a child". Even if the experience is not explicitly remembered, it is still deeply familiar because it consists of nothing more than an intimate glimpse at the innermost aspect of the self.

Physical improvements

J.T.: Does practising T.M. require a special setting or unusual postures?

J.T.: How does one achieve this state? Y.G.: The technique for achieving this state is effortless. T.M. can be learned in a few hours and is then practiced for only fifteen to twenty minutes each morning and evening. The technique is a specific method of allowing the activity of the mind to settle down while one sits comfortably with his eyes closed. This mental process automatically triggers a physiological response conducive to both deep rest and increased wakefulness.

J.T.: How does T.M. work? Y.G.: To explain how T.M. works, it is helpful to begin with an analogy. Maharishi describes the mind as similar to an ocean with wave activity on its surface but profound



Maharishi Mahesh Yogi: He introduced T.M. to the West.

Y.G.: As the eyes need a mirror to perceive themselves, so the mind needs a method of becoming aware of its innermost nature. Yet even in the absence of such a technique, we can find in history cases of individuals who have experienced pure awareness, their description of these experiences -- often in mystical, poetic or philosophical language -- stand among the achievements of mankind.

The significance and value of T.M. is not in producing a new experience, but rather in providing a universally effective and systematic means of experiencing pure awareness twice a day. Through practice of T.M. pure awareness ceases to be a vicarious idea, a distant memory or an occasional peak experience. Instead, it becomes a consistent element in the on-going process of life.

J.T.: Does one practice T.M. for the fun of experiencing pure awareness?

Y.G.: Despite the inherently fascinating nature of the experience of pure awareness, people do not necessarily practice T.M. for pleasure or self knowledge but for significant improvements in the quality of their lives. The regular experience of pure awareness has pronounced positive effects of physical health and psychological well being.

Researchers have reported that the regular practice of the technique improves learning ability, perceptual and motor performance and reaction time. Other researchers have noted improved psychological health, improved ability to recover from stress and improved perceptual acuity. Management scientists have reported that T.M. increases productivity and job satisfaction. Doctors have reported that T.M. reduces high blood pressure, improves asthmatic conditions and is useful in treating the mentally ill.

Mind as ocean

J.T.: How does T.M. work? Y.G.: To explain how T.M. works, it is helpful to begin with an analogy. Maharishi describes the mind as similar to an ocean with wave activity on its surface but profound

sound quality. Matras are specially selected for each individual who receives instructions in T.M.

J.T.: How do you select "matras"?

Y.G.: The selection of correct "matras" for each individual is of critical importance. The teachers of T.M. rely on their own intuition and experience to select the suitable sound for use in by particular individuals. Learning T.M. consists not only of learning the right matras, but also how to use it correctly. To insure correctness in this aspect, it must be taught by a qualified person. The technique can be learned secondarily from a book or from an audio-tape.

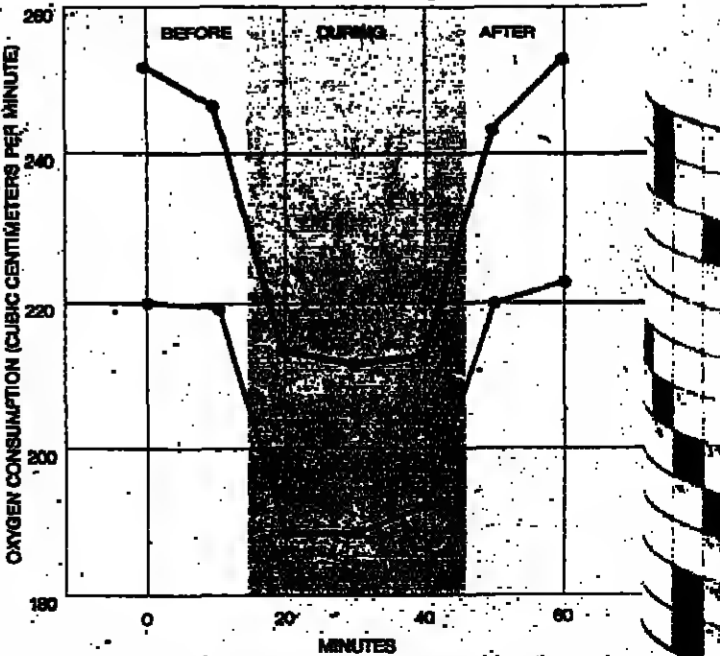
From the first meditation

J.T.: How does T.M. differ from other meditation techniques?

Y.G.: Aside from T.M., there are two principal types of meditation: Contemplation and concentration. Techniques of contemplation involve a shift of attention to dwell internal or external object experience. Contemplation is therefore confined to surface level of the mind is not quiet mental activities does it foster deep bodily

In concentration, on the other hand, one attempts to transform the quality of experience by direct mental control. The technique of concentration, most often, involves voluntary focusing on a particular object of experience such as a physical object, candle flame, a sensation, or the feeling of bliss, or a Zen Kōan, or a generalised state like the sense of all thought. By attempting to hold attention on a particular object, concentration interrupts the continuous flow of attention.

Scientific research reports that in the long run concentration may produce some beneficial effects. The physical of advanced practitioners of yoga and Zen concentration has shown similarities to physiology of practitioners of T.M. But there is an important difference. The results for Zen monks and yogis show clearly only after fifteen to twenty five years of practice whereas the results of T.M. immediate, beginning from first meditation.



The effect of meditation on oxygen consumption

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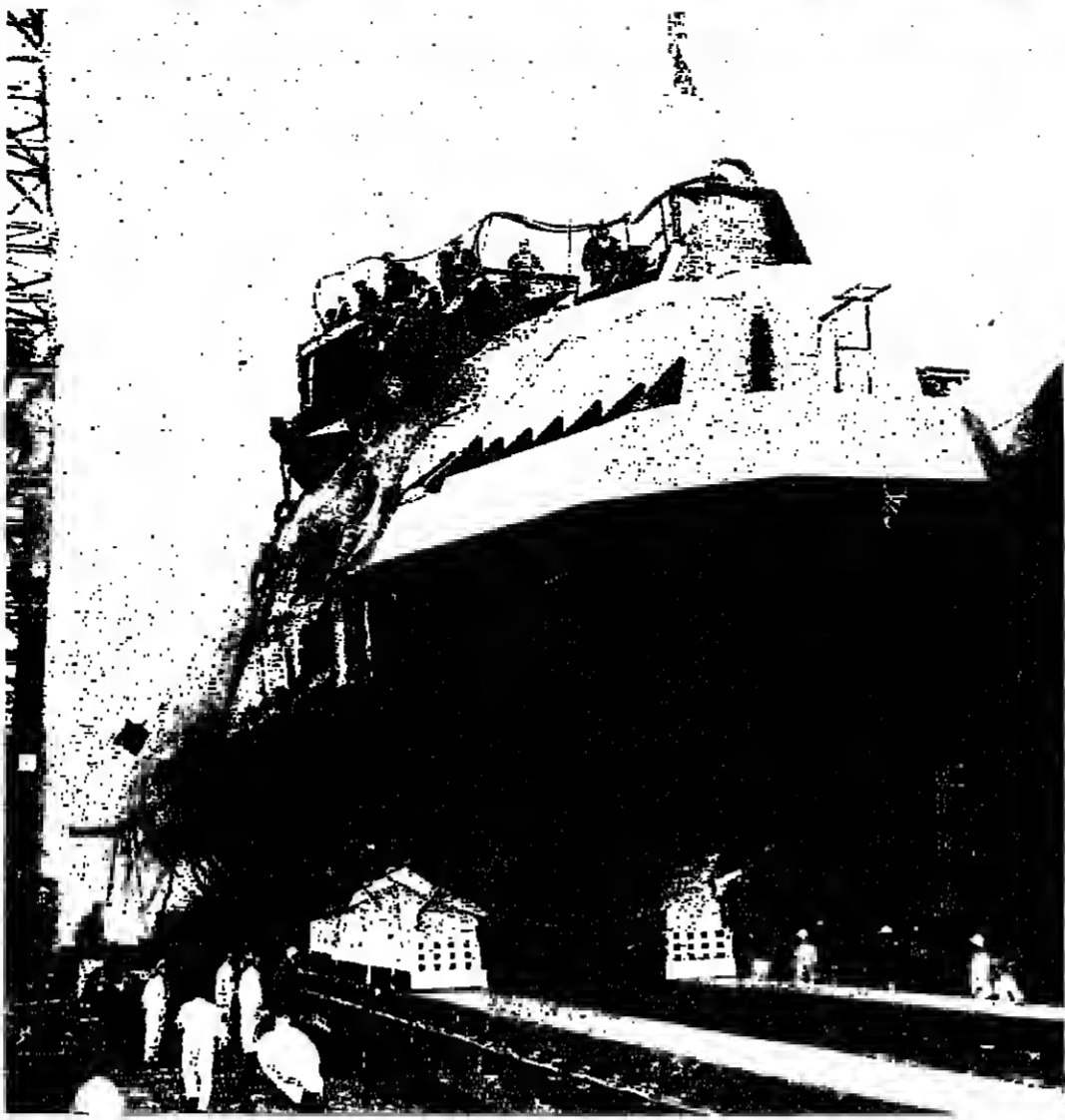
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هكذا صنع القوم

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



BRITAIN LAUNCHES TENTH CAPITAL SHIP... HMS Sceptre, the tenth nuclear-powered fleet submarine for the royal navy, is launched at the Barrow-in-Furness shipyards in north-west England. She is of the new Swiftsure-class, which have greater submerged speeds and deeper diving capabilities than the previous Valiant-class. A Swiftsure, HMS Sovereign, has been in the news recently, when she successfully surfaced through the ice at the North Pole, during a week Arctic patrol. The Swiftsures have a submerged displacement of 4,500 tons and a speed in excess of 25 knots. Their armament is the highly advanced Tigerfish Mark 24 wire-guided acoustic homing torpedo, a fast long-range weapon which can be used against both submarines and surface vessels. With their sophisticated weapons and almost unlimited endurance, these capital ships make powerful additions to Britain's major maritime contribution to the Western Alliance.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

DEAR MR. GOREN:

Q.—I have often seen the term "correcting the count" in your column. I have no idea what that means. Could you explain?—R.C. Davis, White Plains, N.Y.

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—"Often" is perhaps something of an overstatement as far as our column is concerned. The term refers to squeeze play, and except for problem hands in the "Q&A" column, we seldom use hands which depend on a squeeze.

For a simple squeeze to operate, certain conditions must exist. First, declarer must be able to take within one trick of his contract. For example, suppose the contract is six spades. To set a simple squeeze in motion, declarer must be able to win eleven tricks. Also, the number of losers when the squeeze position is reached must be reduced to one. The process of losing a trick (or tricks) to reach the desired position is called "rectifying (or correcting) the count." Perhaps it is best explained by using diagrams:

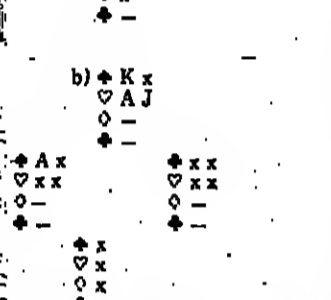


Diagram a) is a classic simple squeeze position. South leads his remaining diamond and West is squeezed to the major suits. North discards whichever suit West retains and scores the last two tricks.

Diagram b) is similar to a), except that we have added an extra card to each hand—a loser. Now the squeeze won't operate, for when South cashes his diamond West has a surplus card; the low spade, to discard. To bring about the squeeze position, South would have had to concede a spade trick earlier in the play, and then reduce the hand to positional.

Q.—How would you play six spades on this hand?

- ♦ AQ6
- ♥ 52
- ♦ AK876
- ♠ A95
- ♣ J72
- ♣ K
- ♠ Q1043
- ♠ 876
- ♦ J2
- ♦ Q1093
- ♠ 10842
- ♠ KQJ73
- ♦ 1098543
- ♦ AKJ9
- ♦ 54
- ♦ 6

West leads the two of clubs — A. Martin, Columbia, S. C. A.—You have received an awkward lead, and the odds are that you will go down by taking the trump finesse. However, it is not

far-fetched to cash the trump ace in the hope of dropping a singleton honor—either the jack or the king. If you were prescient enough to do that, you drop the king and can now scrape home in a number of ways.

After winning the two black aces, it is safest to cash king of diamonds and ruff a club. Now lead a diamond toward the ace, and when West follows, you are almost home.

Win the high diamond in dummy, cash the ace-king of hearts and ruff a heart with the six-spot. Return to your hand with a club ruff and ruff your last heart with the queen. This sets up

West's jack, but your last three cards are the 10-9-8 of trumps, and the defenders can do no more than score their trump trick.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAARD

DACKE

NOBEEG

RYLURF



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the surprise answer here:

Answers tomorrow
Yesterday's Jumbles: AGLOW BASIN SMILE TIMING
Answer: She was perfectly charming—and occasionally lucky—"WIN-SOME"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ROSS
- 27. Particulars
- 28. Blushing
- 29. German composer
- 30. Noah's first son
- 31. Sniff
- 32. Hence
- 33. Handle
- 34. Hazardous
- 35. Parble
- 36. Weather
- 37. Parble
- 38. Parble
- 39. Parble
- 40. Parble
- 41. Parble
- 42. Parble
- 43. Parble
- 44. Parble
- 45. Parble
- 46. Parble
- 47. Parble
- 48. Parble
- 49. Parble
- 50. Parble
- 51. Parble
- 52. Parble
- 53. Parble

PROB CROSS
CREDIT HABIT
ROT TARN ELM
ALEX LACE
VIXEN TEMPTS
EXTRAS SIREN
ATON LIRA
ALA IDOL MER
NECEV NEGATE
INURE ENATE
LEEDS SORE

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE
53. Uppshot
1. Football formations
2. Declaim
3. Oil of roses
4. Halls
5. Burma chiel
6. Twitching
7. Anthracite and bitumen
8. Horn
9. Gladdens
10. Light unit
11. Reticule
12. Anent
13. Withstands
14. Silversides
15. Esperanto
16. Quiz
17. Byrd is one
18. Pullman
19. Parent
20. Mother of Apollo
21. Dutch South Africans
22. Cardinal number
23. Man's title
24. English school
25. Rip
26. Dutch commune
27. Habitual drunkard
28. College degree: abbr.

GRAFFITI

...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
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A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
ANZIO

Cast: Robert Mitchum, Peter Falk, Arthur Kennedy.

The battle of Anzio when the Allied troops smash through the Caesar Line in a costly offensive and liberate Rome.

SATURDAY VARIETY SHOW:

PERRY COMO'S HAWAIIAN HOLIDAY

A one-hour colour variety special featuring Perry Como and accompanied by Petula Clarke and George Carlin.

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OUT AND ABOUT

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle, Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luwelbeh, Hawuz Circle, Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema, Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ablyah School or CMS, Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

DENMARK
Erik Bencke

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: New arrangements in career matters makes it possible to do a better job at your regular routines. Let others know of your talents and special aptitudes. Think logically.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find a better system for handling obligations you have assumed and be more successful. Take no chances where credit is concerned.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take the treatments that will improve your appearance. Engage in favorite hobby with congenials. Use care in motion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Improve conditions at home so that they are more to your liking. Contact close friends and make plans for the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Have talks with associates before you start work you have scheduled for today. Take no chances with your reputation.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Look about for the ideal way to handle an important monetary matter. Show more devotion to mate and get excellent response.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Improve your appearance and then go out socially and make a good impression on others. Stay within your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make the changes that will bring more order and harmony into your life. The evening can be very romantic with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try a new attitude where a long-time friend is concerned and get better results in the future. Evening is fine for sociability.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your surroundings and make improvements. It is best to spend the evening at home and be safe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Progress now is best achieved by making necessary changes and working in a methodical manner. Guard your reputation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure to keep any promises you have made to others. Strive for increased happiness. Relax at home tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Come to a better understanding with one who has opposed you in the past. Show that you have wisdom.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Barnes

"At your age, Mr. Parker, I'd suggest you switch your recreational activities from a skateboard to a checker board."

PEANUTS

HERE'S YOUR SUPPER, SNOOPY...

THE FLINTSTONES

YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO SEE ME?

MUTT AND JEFF

YOU'RE GOING TO PATENT THAT COMBINATION DOOR BELL AND ELECTRIC SHAVER?

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Oil exporting states not likely to end 2-tier oil price system

BAHRAIN, April 1 (R). — The world's oil-exporting states are not likely to end before mid-year the two-tier oil price system in force since Jan. 1, according to well-informed Gulf sources.

The sources said a virtual dead end had been reached in efforts to reconcile differences between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on the one hand, and the other 11 members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), on the other.

Only new market conditions could bring about a change and, if such conditions were to emerge their effect would not be felt before mid-year, the sources said.

Efforts were continuing to persuade Saudi Arabia to relax its resistance to any further price increase this year beyond the five per cent rise it imposed at the beginning of the year, the sources added.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE rejected the majority decision at the December OPEC price fixing conference in Qatar to raise prices by 10 per cent on Jan. 1 and a further five per cent in mid-year.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar's petroleum and Finance Minister and the current president of OPEC, told Reuters last week that his efforts to restore price unity at 10 per cent above last year's levels had not been successful.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, who was host at the December conference, suggested during a tour of Middle East oil exporting states last month that the majority abstain from their additional five per cent mid-year increase while Saudi Arabia and UAE raise their prices a further five per cent to bring their prices in line with other OPEC members.

"It seemed to us a reasonable compromise," he said. The sources said Saudi Arabia had refused to budge from its stand, arguing that the world economy could not support higher oil prices this year, the same argument it had used at the December conference.

Saudi Arabia had even refused to consider a climbdown by the OPEC majority from the 10 per cent level in force since the beginning of the year, according to Gulf newspaper reports.

The reports said some OPEC members had proposed a compromise where all OPEC members would raise prices at eight per cent above last year's level, though the Gulf sources said this proposal had not been acceptable to many among the OPEC majority.

The compromise was based on the fact that the aggregate price for oil in world markets, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE accounting for a third of OPEC production, was about eight per cent above 1976 prices.

Saudi Arabia appeared at first willing to discuss such a compromise, but argued that the aggregate should be seven per cent because its share, at lower prices, of OPEC produc-

tion had increased, the newspaper reports said.

The world's largest oil exporter with an almost unlimited capacity to increase oil production to meet world demand, Saudi Arabia had banked on a slow-down in world demand early in the new year to put the squeeze on price rise hawks among OPEC states.

Oil-consuming countries and the international oil companies increased their oil stocks in the last few months of 1976 in anticipation of the January price increase, but a severe winter in the United States and Europe increased the demand for oil.

Saudi Arabia had also been hoping to increase its production from the 8.3 million barrels a day average for last year to 10 million barrels in the first quarter of this year. This would have increased its share of OPEC production from 27 to 33 per cent, mainly at the expense of the producers of heavy crude oils such as Iran, Iraq and Kuwait.

Saudi production, however, averaged only 8.4 million barrels a day in January and just under nine million barrels in February.

However, informed oil sources said in Saudi Arabia were facing technical problems in increasing their production, while Gulf political sources believed the production figures reflected a deliberate Saudi attempt to mollify the country's OPEC partners and assure them it was not out to capture their markets.

Whatever the reason for the Saudi failure to increase production substantially, and coupled with the increased demand for oil, it has in practice meant that the other OPEC states have not been as hard pressed as appeared likely early in the new year.

Producers of lighter better quality crudes, such as Libya and Venezuela, have increased their production substantially since the beginning of the year. Those selling heavier crudes similar to the majority of Saudi Arabia's production suffered

from low demand in January, although the market picked up in February and March.

Iranian production, for example, averaged 5.1 million barrels a day in January compared with last year's average of 5.9 million barrels. In February it rose to just over six million barrels because of the increased demand.

A question the majority have to face shortly is whether they should go ahead with the planned five per cent price increase on July 1.

Kuwait has already informed its customers that its prices will go up in July in line with the OPEC majority decision.

The Gulf sources said the next scheduled OPEC ministerial conference, due to be held in Stockholm on July 12, was not likely to be the venue for a settlement.

They said the ministers had chosen the date deliberately to fall after the July 1 price increase so that the question would not arise at the OPEC conference.

Agreement with trade unions abates threat of political crisis in Italy

ROME, April 1 (AFP). — The threat of a political crisis abated here this week after the country's major trade union confederations agreed to limit rising labour costs.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti had tied the survival of his minority Christian Democrat government to success in negotiating with the unions over the wage indexation system, a principal cause of inflation here.

Success in the negotiations also meant that Italy would meet the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$530-million loan.

Failure, on the other hand, would have meant no loan and slashed the credibility of the government's anti-inflation package, dealing a severe blow to the prestige of the Andreotti team.

It also would have meant that the Socialist and Communist parties, which support the Christian Democrats in parliament by abstaining in key votes, would have been forced by the unions to reconsider the backing they had expressed earlier for the new measures to limit automatic wage rises.

Under the agreement reached Wednesday, the unions accepted some modifications in the cost of living "basket" on which wage indexation is based.

The changes agreed to by the unions were incorporated in amendments to the government's original law decreeing the anti-inflation package and approved immediately by the Senate.

The chamber of deputies is expected to approve formally the entire programme on April 8, giving Mr. Andreotti about one month's breathing space over the Easter holiday period to prepare for talks in May with the parties that support him in parliament.

Though the deal with the unions amounted to an important victory for the government, coming as it did after drawn out bargaining, the most difficult road appears to lie ahead as the prime minister manoeuvres to deal with the

Communists, strengthened by the key role they played in this week's agreement.

For the time being, at least one wing of the Christian Democrat Party continues to oppose the Communists entering the government, and has repeatedly said so.

Also promising trouble for the government was the rank-and-file of the trade unions, unhappy with the sacrifices agreed to by their leadership.

Rich nations differ over Third World demands

GENEVA, April 1 (AFP). Industrial countries differed sharply here today on the approach toward demands from Third World countries for a common fund to finance commodity buffer stocks to be set up by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

As a three-week conference on stabilisation of commodity prices was drawing towards its end here, the industrial countries in UNCTAD had still to reach agreement on a joint draft resolution that would form an alternative to a text in which the "group of 77" urged the parity to "decide" on the establishment of a common fund.

The Scandinavian countries and the European economic community were backing the creation of a common fund in principle, while the United States, Japan, Canada and Australia were holding out against it, conference sources said.

The sources said it seemed unlikely that agreement would be in hand among the Western countries by tomorrow, when the conference is scheduled to end.

If the two conflicting schools of thought inside this group were reconciled in some kind of compromise solution, this would certainly not meet the requirements of the developing countries, these sources said.

Some observers thought the UNCTAD meeting, which began on March 7, might be adjourned until some later date.

They said no one could afford to allow it to end in an outright failure, because this might jeopardize the final ministerial session next May of the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC).

Iraqis, Saudis hold oil talks

AMMAN, Apr. 1 (R). — Iraqi Oil Minister Tayeb Abdul Karim yesterday conferred with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, Riyadh Radio reported.

The meeting was attended by Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, second Deputy Premier, Prince Saud Al Faisal, Foreign Minister, and Dr. Mohammed Abdo Yamani, Information and Acting Oil Minister, the radio added.

Observers here believe the visit by the Iraqi minister comes as part of the efforts by some oil producers to end the two-tier price system in force since the beginning of the year.

At the meeting held by the Organisation of Oil Producing Countries (OPEC) in Doha last December Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rejected a majority decision to raise prices by 15 per cent in two stages this year and opted only a five per cent increase.

The other OPEC countries raised their prices 10 per cent on Jan. 1 and are due to raise them by a further five per cent on July 1.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaid Yamani said in Abu Dhabi last February the world's major oil producers had so far failed to resolve their oil price differences.

from low demand in January, although the market picked up in February and March.

Iranian production, for example, averaged 5.1 million barrels a day in January compared with last year's average of 5.9 million barrels. In February it rose to just over six million barrels because of the increased demand.

A question the majority have to face shortly is whether they should go ahead with the planned five per cent price increase on July 1.

Kuwait has already informed its customers that its prices will go up in July in line with the OPEC majority decision.

The Gulf sources said the next scheduled OPEC ministerial conference, due to be held in Stockholm on July 12, was not likely to be the venue for a settlement.

They said the ministers had chosen the date deliberately to fall after the July 1 price increase so that the question would not arise at the OPEC conference.

Rich nations differ over Third World demands

GENEVA, April 1 (AFP). Industrial countries differed sharply here today on the approach toward demands from Third World countries for a common fund to finance commodity buffer stocks to be set up by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

As a three-week conference on stabilisation of commodity prices was drawing towards its end here, the industrial countries in UNCTAD had still to reach agreement on a joint draft resolution that would form an alternative to a text in which the "group of 77" urged the parity to "decide" on the establishment of a common fund.

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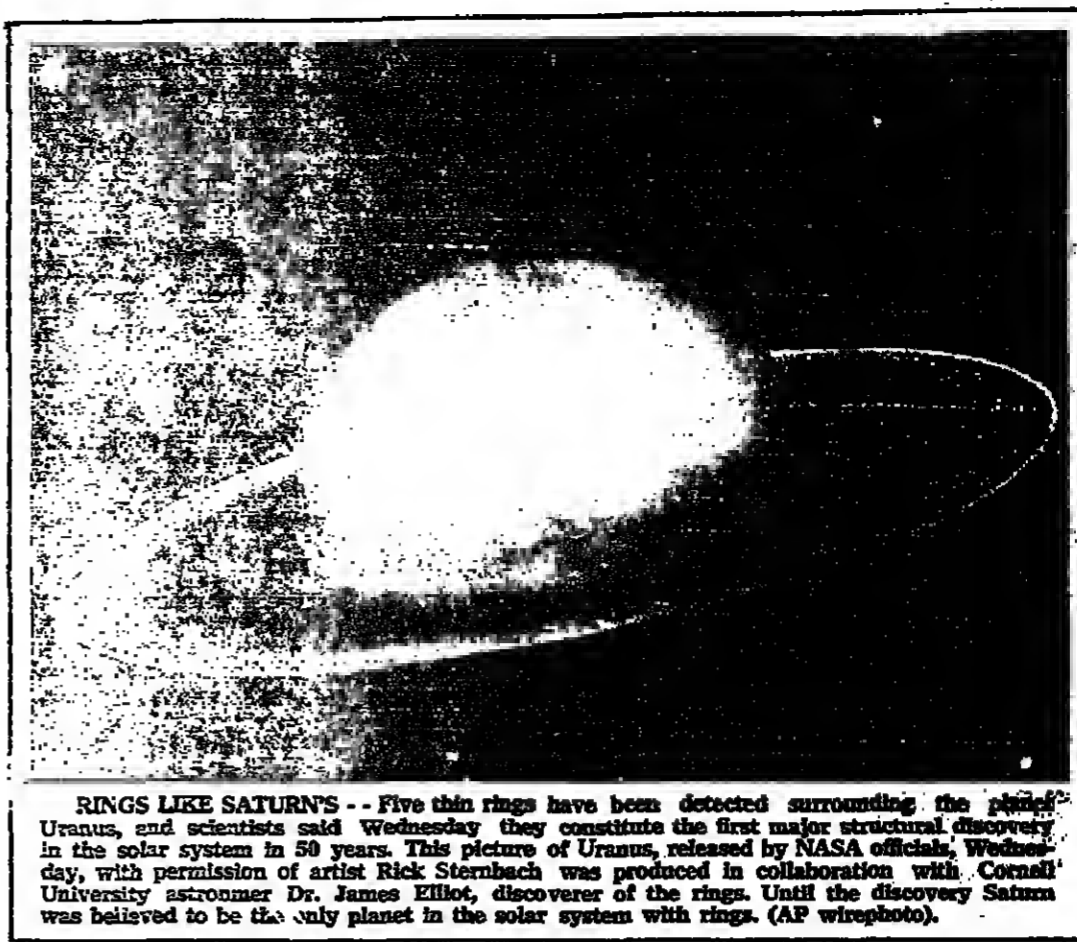
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RINGS LIKE SATURN'S - Five thin rings have been detected surrounding the planet Uranus, and scientists said Wednesday they constitute the first major structural discovery in the solar system in 50 years. This picture of Uranus, released by NASA officials, Wednesday, with permission of artist Rick Sternbach, was produced in collaboration with Cornell University astronomer Dr. James Elliot, discoverer of the rings. Until the discovery Saturn was believed to be the only planet in the solar system with rings. (AP wirephoto).

Djibouti factions disagree in Accra

ACCRA, April 1 (R). — Rival factions attending a conference on the French Territory of the Afars and Issas have failed to reach agreement on their approach to forthcoming independence.

Six hours of heated debate ended in deadlock, with each side accusing the other of rejecting proposals covering the period leading up to independence on June 27.

The conference, which was due to end yesterday with a stated aim of national political unity will now have a final session today.

But although officials declined to acknowledge that the conference had failed, one senior observer from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) team which tried to work out a compromise between the two sides commented: "Some people hope where there is nothing to hope for."

Representatives of the two sides, broadly split by their attitudes to agreements reached in Paris earlier this month which proclaimed general elections in the Red Sea enclave for May 8 with a referendum on the proposed June 27 independence on the same day, were expected to attend today's formal closure.

But statements made by the two sides after the conference ended abruptly late last night made it clear that there seemed no hope of a reconciliation.

Armed men fail to storm Chad presidential palace

NDJAMENA, April 1 (R). — Armed men stormed Chad's presidential palace during the night but were beaten off in a battle, which lasted until dawn, informed sources said.

President Felix Malloum was unhurt and still in control of the government, this morning, the sources said.

Mortar and machine gun fire was heard for six hours around the palace and in other parts of the capital of this former French colony on the southern side of the Sahara desert. This morning the city was calm once again.

The identity of the attackers was not immediately known. Chad Radio appealed for calm and called on the population to stay at home.

Gen. Malloum, who toppled President Francois Tombalbaye in a coup d'etat two years ago, was said to have spent the night presiding over a meeting of the country's higher military council.

One of his main tasks since taking power in this landlocked country of four million people has been to quell a rebellion by Touareg nomads in the northern deserts.

He took over a country devastated by drought, on the verge of economic collapse and burdened by corruption.

N'djamena's International Airport was closed indefinitely. The sources said the nomad guards had been supported by external elements, which were not identified.

Several political prisoners had been freed, they said, but they did not include those recently convicted by the state security court.

Gromyko explains why Soviets rejected U.S. SALT proposals

MOSCOW, April 1 (R). — The Carter administration in its first top-level negotiations to the crucial issue between the two superpowers -- limiting strategic arms.

Their feelings were aired with unusual frankness at a press conference given yesterday by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko only hours after the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had left at the end of three days of talks.

It was the first time for over a decade that a member of the Kremlin leadership had called a news conference on home ground -- an unexpected departure which underlined Moscow's interest in telling the world its version of what happened in the negotiations.

But Mr. Gromyko's message also seemed to be that if President Carter and his aides wanted to engage in "open diplomacy", then the Kremlin was prepared to give them a taste of their own medicine.

The 67-year-old foreign minister, switching adroitly from anger and scorn to cool reasoning, explained in detail why Soviet leaders rejected the two proposals made by Mr. Vance for a new Strategic Arms Limitation talks (SALT) pact. He also accused the Americans of using "double standards" which were "doubtful if not to say cheap".

Mr. Gromyko strongly attacked a version of the U.S. proposals he said was publicised in the West, according to which Washington suggested "a broad programme of disarmament" at the Moscow talks, only to have it rejected by the Soviet leadership.

"This version is essentially false. No one has put forward such a programme to us," he insisted.

The U.S. package proposal, as outlined by Mr. Gromyko, was for each country to accept a ceiling of 1,800 to 2,000 strategic missiles and bombers, with 1,200 or 1,100 of them allowed to carry multiple warheads.

"Furthermore it was proposed to us that one half of our rockets which someone in the United States does not like should be liquidated," he said.

Mr. Gromyko maintained the package would have given the U.S. unilateral advantages and done "great harm to the interest of the Soviet Union".

He was equally scathing about the other U.S. proposal, for ratification of the provisional SALT accord of 1974 without including the American Cruise missile or Soviet Backfire bomber. Disagreement over the status of these weapons has been a main obstacle to clinching the agreement.

Mr. Gromyko said excluding the Cruise -- a low-flying drone which can deliver a nuclear warhead with pinpoint accuracy -- would have been the same as giving the green light to the weapon's production and development.

"Is it to the advantage of humanity? Would it be security? No, it would not be security..."

That's why the narrow agreement was rejected outright, he said.

Mr. Gromyko accused U.S. of seeking to revise 1974 accord, which was vetoed out at Vladivostok by the Communist Party led Leonid Brezhnev and for President Gerald Ford.

The guidelines laid down there for a limit of 2,400 each country's strategic missiles and bombers, including 1,320 with multiple warheads.

Although the tentative has not been finally approved because of the Backfire-Cruise controversy, Mr. Gromyko made clear that Soviet leaders felt it should serve as a basis for a new SALT pact -- Cruise included, and Backfire left out.

There was an implicit unmistakable warning note. Mr. Gromyko's 80-minute statement when he spoke of the Soviet pressure for the mounting of U.S. "adva base" of bombers and submarines around the world.

"In Vladivostok, in an effort to reach agreement, we did make any conditions at all. We did not include it. Now we look at it in a different light in view of the new proposals of the United States, he said.

Mr. Gromyko's verdict on the Moscow talks was considerably harsher than that of President Carter, who said on Wednesday he was not discouraged by the outcome, or of Mr. Vance, who went no further than admitting to disappointment.

The Soviet foreign minister repeated Soviet complaints that Mr. Carter's stance on his rights had not helped to solve problems like SALT. He said that attempts to play mes and use cunning only created difficulties.

But, he added, the Soviet leadership had large reserves of patience, sufficient "to count the negotiations on all their problems."

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices managed a good rally Friday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average gained more than eight points.

Trade however, remained light. Investors reacted favourably to a Labour Department announcement that the U.S. unemployment rate had dropped from 7.5 to 7.3 per cent in March, which confirmed the rebound of the economy following this winter's big freeze.

Institutions also seemed to return to the buying side following their recent liquidations to adjust their portfolios at the end of the first quarter.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a wide 968 to 424 margin as most groups of shares closed on a steady tone with the exception of gold mines.

Auto, steel, paper and computer issues were very strong. Westinghouse gained 5/8 to 18-3/4 in active trading, while American Motors lost 1/4 to 4-3/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 927.36, a gain of 8.23 points; Transp at 223.61, a gain of 0.64; utilities at 106.88, a gain of 0.86. 17,050,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,390,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Friday moved lower with government bonds the most active sector.

Dealers reported some profit-taking after the recent sharp rise. Some operators were sellers because of the uncertainty about securing the cooperation of trade unions for the next stage of government's pay policy, dealers said. Net falls ranged to 1-1/4 pt. equities also eased with leaders showing losses of 2p to 10p. Gold shares were little changed from this morning's slightly easier levels in virtually idle trading. Dollar stocks were mixed and Canadians firm.

At 1500 the F.T. index was down 6.4 at 413.0.

Hawker and Unilever were 10p down apiece.

ICI, Glaxo, Bats, Thom. Tube Investments, Beecham and Metal Box lost between 5p and 8p. Banks were also similarly lower.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at 148.78/oz.

Podgorny concludes African tour

MAPUTO, April 1 (R). — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny left here by air for Dar es Salaam today, ending a three-country African tour of Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique.

He signed here yesterday a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Mozambique, one of the most militant of "front-line" states ranged against Rhodesia.

President Samora Machel and other members of the Mozambique government went to the airport to say farewell to President Podgorny.

The Soviet president is due to make a private visit to game park in northern Tanzania before returning to Moscow on Sunday.

In Brussels, meanwhile, Ni sources said today that Ni views with concern the a friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and Mozambique, seeing it as another success Moscow's drive in Africa.

Diplomats, politicians and peace military officers Ni sources said today that Ni views with concern the a friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and Mozambique, seeing it as another success Moscow's drive in Africa.

The southern limit laid down in the 1949 treaty is the Tm of Cancer which runs through southern Algeria, Libya, Egypt.

Despite the geographic restriction on joint diplomatic military activity by the alliance, Nato's Atlantic naval command was ordered to form plans to defend south African sea lanes.

The plans envisage a multinational force of destroyers which would sail to the time of war.

Shipments of more than 1 of Western Europe's coal and raw material requirements must pass round the Cape Good Hope.

The economic life of Western Europe would come to a halt if the Soviet navy cut lanes, alliance strategists said.

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هوزا صحت انصاف

توکیر کساوس

TREASURE HOUSE

THIRD FLOOR

JABAL AMMAN

Wide variety of towels, bedspreads, blankets and CANNON bedcovers.